

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (cancelled)

Claim 2 (currently amended): ~~A~~The device in accordance with claim ~~13~~, ~~characterized in that~~wherein the ventilating duct-(8) extends essentially parallel to a gastight pipe corridor (6), the pipe corridor-(6) enclosing ~~at least a~~the loading and unloading pipe-(28).

Claim 3 (currently amended): ~~A device in accordance with claim 1, characterized in that~~A device for protecting a loading space of a vessel from excess pressure caused by gas leakage, the loading space comprising a hold provided with cargo pressure tanks, wherein the vessel is provided with a ventilating duct that extends along the hold and is separated in a gastight manner from remaining rooms of the vessel, and further wherein the hold-(1)~~of the ship~~ is divided into hold sections-(2), each hold section-(2) being provided with a valve compartment-(4) separated in a gastight manner from the remaining rooms of the vessel, the valve compartment-(4) enclosing at least one shut-off valve-(~~30~~, 33) which is arranged to shut off a pipe connection between ~~the~~a loading and unloading pipe-(28) and ~~at least one of the~~ cargo pressure ~~tank~~tank-(12).

Claim 4 (currently amended): ~~A~~The device in ~~accordance with~~of claim 2, ~~characterized in that~~wherein the hold-(1) communicates with the ventilating duct-(8) through at least one automatically opening valve-(~~14~~, 16).

Claim 5 (currently amended): ~~A~~The device in ~~accordance with~~of claim 3, ~~characterized in that~~wherein the valve compartment-(4) communicates with the ventilating duct-(8) through at least one automatically opening valve-(~~20~~, 22).

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Claim 6 (currently amended): ~~A device in accordance with claim 2, characterized in that~~A device for protecting a loading space of a vessel from excess pressure caused by gas leakage, the loading space comprising a hold provided with cargo pressure tanks, wherein the vessel is provided with a ventilating duct that extends along the hold and is separated in a gastight manner from remaining rooms of the vessel, and further wherein;
the ventilating duct extends essentially parallel to a gastight pipe corridor, the pipe corridor enclosing a loading and unloading pipe; and
the pipe corridor-(6) communicates with the ventilating duct-(8) through at least one automatically opening valve-(24, 26).

Claim 7 (cancelled)

Claim 8 (cancelled)

Claim 9 (currently amended): ~~A~~The device in accordance withof claim 86, characterized in thatwherein the valve compartment-(4) communicates with the ventilating duct-(8) through at least one automatically opening valve-(20, 22).